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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Per Bang Hansen
Serial No.: 09/879,844
Filed: 6/12/01
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ALLEVIATING TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN A COMPUTER NETWORK
Art Unit: 2151
Examiner: Unassigned
Docket No.: PH01-00-10

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In regard to the above-identified application, please enter the following preliminary amendment and remarks:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph **0019** with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0019]-- The physical layer device corresponding to a router (which, as mentioned, is a network or IP level device) is an optical switch. In a WDM system, an optical switch allows different wavelength channels to be directed along different paths in the network. Optical switches may be fixed wavelength-dependent elements in which a given wavelength is always routed along a given path. More flexible optical switches are reconfigurable elements that can dynamically change the path along which a given wavelength is routed. Examples of a fixed optical switch include Add/Drop Multiplexers (OADM) and Optical Cross-Connects (OXC) such as disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,504,827, 5,612,805, and 5,959,749, while general OXC switching architecture is reviewed by E. Murphy in chapter 10 of Optical Fiber Telecommunications IIIB, edited by T. Koch and I. Kaminow, for example. Examples of a more flexible reconfigurable optical switch are disclosed in U.S. Application Serial No. 09/571,833, filed May 16, 2000, and U.S. Application Serial No. 09/691,812, filed October 19, 2000.